

From the Superintendent's Desk

Shauna Bilyeu, Superintendent

Dear Terrier Families,

Happy April! **Spring** is upon us and we are charging full steam ahead. March was busy, and the next few months promise to be even busier! A quick recap of some of the events that occurred in March, and a look forward to April and the rest of the year:

- The month started off with a bang for our Special Olympics basketball team. They traveled to Wenatchee, Washington over the weekend of March 2-4th and won 3rd place and a bronze medal!! We are so proud of them!
- Flying Hands competition hosted by WSD: Montana, Oregon and Canada sent participants and a great time was had by all! This event continues to grow every year; this year we had over 75 participants!
- Our Academic Bowl team flew to Irvine, California over the weekend of March 9th to compete in the Western Regionals. They ended with a record of three wins and four losses, narrowly missing an opportunity to go to Academic Bowl Nationals for a second year. They did us proud!
- On March 14th, most of the secondary students participated in a national student walk-out supporting the victims in the Florida school shootings and exercising their 2nd amendment rights to request stricter gun laws. This was a “teachable moment”, and staff quickly jumped on board to support and talk with students as they went through a range of emotions on the topic of gun violence. Students and staff joined arms and stood on the corner of Evergreen and Grand Blvd. for a full 17 minutes in complete stillness. I have never been more proud of our staff and students.
- March 14th Family Academy Night included a special guest presenter, Detective Robert Givens from Vancouver PD Digital Evidence Cybercrimes Unit. He brought his special tech-sniffing dog, Chip with him and talked with us about the risks facing our youth today and social media. It was very informative and a great presentation.
- The week of March 19th was statewide testing for many of our students in grades 3 through 10. Students took tests on iPads and had the support of staff throughout the week. It was tough and I had more than one student tell me, “It was hard!” For many of our students, these tests are not in their ability range, but we are mandated to participate as fully as possible. Parents should receive scores in the mail early next fall. Questions can be directed to Shannon Graham, curriculum and assessment coordinator.
- March 30th we held a surprise celebration for secondary students that made the Honor Roll and had few to no behavior referrals for the entire second semester. Donuts and movie!



Upcoming April events include:

- Spring break, **April 2nd-April 6th.**
- Family Academy Night (FAN) for elementary families on April 11th: Social Thinking: Help your child understand perspective—special presentation by our very own Amanda Bleed. Dinner at 5:30, parent and children workshops 6:00-7:15, with dessert and raffle afterwards! Come one, come all!
- April 18th/19th, a group of our students will travel to Auburn, Washington to participate in the annual JA World event. This is always a fun event that attracts deaf students from around the state. Please contact Teresa Stotler-Martin for any questions.

Looking further ahead:

- **May 5th** Family Camp at Lazy “F” camp in Ellensburg, Washington! Don’t miss out on this!
- **May 5th** Deafopia in Hunter Gym 11:00 am to 7:00 pm. Look for more information to come.
- Save the date and start making travel arrangements now! **May 31st** is our annual All Star Day! Parents make this day super exciting, we hope to see you all there!

Whew! Spring is a-hoppin’! As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at: shauna.bilyeu@cdhl.wa.gov

“Terrier Totality”

Elementary Principal

April McArthur, Elementary Principal

On any ordinary school day, when our elementary students enter the building, you will see students either eagerly “walking-and-trying-not-to-run” to their classrooms, as is normal with the younger students or chatting up a storm with each other, as is typical with the older students. To me, that is a sign that our children truly enjoy coming to school. The moment our students enter the building, you can feel the “hum” begin.

Students get their folders, homework, and pencils. Our teachers open the day with morning meetings and a review of the day’s agenda. In one classroom, you will find the teacher leading a group of students in a guided reading activity where they learn strategies to find out the author’s purpose by studying a nonfiction story on dragonflies. In another classroom, you will see a group of students participating in a hands-on science experiment about how insects move around in three different kinds of environments in order to survive. They are learning about how factors in an environment influence an organism’s preference for a specific kind of environment. Whether your child is studying literature or conducting a science experiment, you can clearly see their joy and love for learning. This is the heart of what we do here at WSD. We strive to provide a warm environment to nurture each child’s intrinsic motivation to learn more about the world, and we believe in fostering authentic learning through meaningful exchanges with one another.

At WSD, we are proud of our ASL-English bilingual program where your child not only studies all the important core subjects such as math, science, ASL, social studies, and english but also develops social skills through the use of our *Second Steps* curriculum. Partnering with our families in each child’s education is important to us. Please contact us if you have any questions or feedback. My email address is april.mcarthur@cdhl.wa.gov.



2018 Deaf Fiesta!

Saturday, April 14, 2018

9:00am - 4:00pm

FREE for Spanish-speaking parents and their deaf/hard of hearing children and siblings. Central Washington University Black Hall, Room 201 400 E University Way, Ellensburg

Registration Deadline:

April 3, 2018

For more information contact:

Fax 206-987-2246

Phone/VP 206-257-7199

(English/Spanish)

Email julia.petersen@seattlechildrens.org

Secondary Principal

Jason Cox, Secondary Principal

It is hard to believe that April is here. Spring officially started March 20! Students’ spring break starts April 2nd through the 6th. With the commencement of the new season, the secondary department teachers have a continued commitment as they emphasize the importance of ensuring that your scholars are prepared for the next grade level. Please see the breakdown of instructional days remaining for the 2017-2018 school year below:

- 52 instructional days left until the last day of school
- 12 instructional days left until the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP)
- 38 instructional days left until All Star Day
- 47 instructional days left until Graduation
- 5 instructional days left until 3rd quarter ends

Please communicate with your child and remind them the importance of preparing for their tests coming up. Students need to have a good sleep the night before the test, eat a good breakfast in the morning before coming to school to take the test. Also please communicate with your child about 3rd quarter ending soon, they should make sure they have completed all of their assignments before the quarter ends on April 13th to get a good grade.

We are excited to have our middle school students who are on the math team flying to Rochester Institute of Technology, New York for a math contest the weekend of April 14th. Each year our team heads to New York and always come back with rich experiences. I look forward to hearing what our math team has to share with us when they return from New York after spring break. Enjoy spring break with your child and we look forward to seeing them come back.

Calendar

- April 1 - Easter 
- April 2-6 Spring Break
- April 11 - Family Academy Night (FAN)
- April 19 - Early Release
- Travel Days 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29

Sports

Track season has started and we have already competed in two meets! Our athletes and coaches are excited and looking forward to competing in the Berg/Seeger Classic being hosted this year at CA School for the Deaf @ Fremont; 22 deaf schools will be competing this year!!



Special Olympics Basketball Team
 Congratulations on 3rd place and a bronze medal!!

Track Schedule

- WSD @ White Salmon – April 11 @3:45pm
- Berg/Seeger Classic @CA School for the Deaf, Fremont – April 14
- WSD @ Woodland High School – April 18 @3:30pm
- WSD @ Adna High School – April 24 @3:30pm

Reminder! Book Fair will be coming May 25th!
 June 1st is "BOGO"
 Buy One Get One free!




Detective Robert Givens from Vancouver Police Department giving a presentation on social media and digital safety at WSD.

WSD Library

Ginger Speranza, Librarian

We had a great **Dr. Seuss's Birthday Bash** in the library this year!
 Thank you the Secondary students that helped out.



Residential Department

Rick Whitney, Director of Residential Services

Spring break starts the first week of April and the residential students are coming back on April 8th to begin the final stretch of the 2017-2018 school year!

With that in mind it is also time for the annual reminder for our students to start packing their belongings to bring back home a little at a time each week. Please encourage your students/children to bring something home each week on Fridays as summer gets closer. This will help us avoid massive piles of personal belongings being brought home on the final day of school. The buses and planes cannot handle all the items if they were brought back at once and we would want to avoid storing personal items over the summer. This is why we are asking everyone to simply bring little items one at a time so the last day can run smoothly. The last bit of items on the final day should be just the bedsheets, clothes, and other miscellaneous items. Thank you! I hope everyone enjoys spring break with your families!



“Please encourage your students/ children to bring something home each week on Fridays as summer gets closer.”

Reminders!

Prom May 10!

Graduation: June 13!

Last Day of School is June 20!



Summer Camps for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children and Teens Link!

<http://www3.gallaudet.edu/clerc-center/info-to-go/national-resources-and-directories/summer-camps.html>



Taking A Stand

Annie Kvamme - JR. NAD President

As President of the JR. NAD organization, I believe strongly in people having a voice. **On March 14th, 2018**, I saw voices in a lot of our Washington School for the Deaf (WSD) students. We take a united stand against gun violence, especially in a place that's supposed to be safe and educational. After having several school shootings, students nationwide decided that enough is enough and organized a nationwide school walkout and we were a part of them.

I'm proud to say that my WSD peers represented the teens all over the nation with dignity and respect when we stood outside our school building in solitude amongst our teachers and staff. We all stood outside for seventeen minutes to represent the seventeen people killed in the Florida Parkland shooting.

Anytime that one of us feels a need to speak up, you can count on the fact that students feel safe at WSD to voice their opinions or concerns. This is not a place where students are oppressed but more rather thriving. I'm proud of the environment that resides in WSD and I work as president to ensure that teachers, staff, and students feel safe and comfortable. This work is hard but I make it through with help from my own peers, the JR. NAD committee, and staff here at my school. I want to thank everybody that participated in this event and I hope they know how proud I am of them.



March 14, 2018